

lines of Municipal Socialism Some of them did A
 Piogressive majority of a rathei vague and
 diverse kind
 was returned, to the surprise of everybody—but
 the Fabians
 So far so good The Progressives set to work,
 but their
 ideas turned out, in action, to be bounded by
 securing
 purity and efficiency of administration—good
 enough
 things in themselves, but by no means
 sufficient, least of
 all to meet the actual conditions in London Big
 changes
 were required in moie than administration
 Take one
 small point—the water supply Down to 1893,
 the supply
 of water for London was in private hands It
 cost under
 £700,000 a year to supply London with water
 but London
 had to pay more than £1,700,000 for the water
 so supplied
 The water, too, was often of doubtful quality,
 the supply
 was partial and irregular, many poor streets
 had to depend
 on a distant and insufficient tap Baths, even in
 private
 houses, were a rare luxury public baths were
 unknown
 The result of this lack of the most elementary
 necessity
 of sanitation was the prevalence both of
 disease and of
 noxious smells But no action was taken
 with regard
 to this by the first Council, and this was only one
 of many
 crying and immediate evils

"We accordingly set ourselves, in the Fabian
 Society, to work
 out, in the ensuing three years, a detailed
 programme of admin-
 istrative reforms, to be made the basis of a
 consolidated Progres-
 sive Party, which should ignore the political
 differences between
 Liberals and Conservatives and appeal for the
 support of all good
 citizens "

Of this effort, he was the life and soul *Facts for Londoners*, a booklet on which he "spent some months in 1889," published at sixpence, told Londoners, for the first time, all about their actual and possible municipal services. In the *Speaker*, then a lively Liberal weekly, run by the group which also compiled *Essays in Liberalism*, including H W Massingham, J L Hammond, J A Simon, Hilaire